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Method of parallel manufacture in which items are tested before completion of the process, particularly for making arrays of oligonucleotides
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Patent Family

Patent Number	Kind	Date	Application Number	Kind	Date	Week	Type
WO 9939817	A1	19990812	WO 99US2518	A	19990205	199942	B
AU 9925867	A	19990823	AU 9925867	A	19990205	200005	
EP 1051245	A1	20001115	EP 99905781	A	19990205	200059	
			WO 99US2518	A	19990205		
JP 2002502588	W	20020129	WO 99US2518	A	19990205	200211	
			JP 2000530300	A	19990205		

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Patent Details

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Abstract:
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NOVELTY Method (I) for parallel manufacture of many items (A) comprises selecting a sample of (A) being processed, subjecting the sample to further processing, determining quality of the processed sample, and if quality is satisfactory, subjecting the remainder of (A) to the further processing.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION (A) are chips, preferably of biological material (specifically DNA, RNA, amino acids or their analogs) on a wafer, and further processing is packaging of the chips.

INDEPENDENT CLAIMS are also included for the following;

ACTIVITY None given.

MECHANISM OF ACTION None given.

USE The method is particularly used during manufacture of arrays, particularly of biological materials (I), especially nucleic acids (Ia) but also peptides, or inorganic materials such as catalysts. These arrays are variously useful in drug screening (to identify peptides that interact with a selected receptor); for nucleic acid sequencing; in screening for genetic diseases (e.g. cystic fibrosis or some cancers) or for detecting pathogens (or particular strains of them).

ADVANTAGE The method allows any defective items to be identified, and discarded, at an early stage, eliminating the waste involved in further processing of such items.

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Technology Focus:
TECHNOLOGY FOCUS - INSTRUMENTATION AND TESTING - Preferred method:Alternatively, (A) are substrates for chip synthesis on an array and further processing is then cleavage and preparation of the substrates. Particularly many substrates are prepared and tested, and if satisfactory arrays of (A) are produced on the substrate. The substrates are tested again, and if satisfactory, the arrays are separated, tested again and if satisfactory the separated arrays are packaged and tested again.

As for (I), except that only the prepared substrates, the fabricated arrays or the separated arrays are tested. If the tested items are found to be unsatisfactory, the entire batch of items is discarded. The most preferred process is production of an array of nucleic acids (Ia). Many duplicated arrays of (Ia) are produced on a substrate (preferably by light-directed synthesis, nucleic acid spotting or ink jet synthesis), then the arrays separated (by sawing or scribing). Some of the separated arrays are packaged and tested, and if they are satisfactory the remiander of the arrays are also packaged.